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Extensions of country programmes in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on: (a) the one-year extension of the country programme for Azerbaijan, and (b) the two-year extension of the country programme for Kyrgyzstan.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for Azerbaijan, as indicated in table 1, and approve the two-year extension of the country programme for Kyrgyzstan, as indicated in table 2.

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Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Azerbaijan	2005-2009	2010	In 2004, the United Nations country team and its partners in the Government and civil society prepared the first United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2005-2009. The UNDAF was based on the national programme for poverty reduction and economic development, 2003-2005. The Government and the United Nations organizations signed the UNDAF, thereby enabling the continuation of United Nations assistance to the government-led development process. In 2008, the Government approved its national programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development, for the period 2008-2015. The Government and the United Nations country team agreed in 2008 to extend the current UNDAF through 2010. This decision enabled the next UNDAF (which will cover the period 2011-2015), to be harmonized with the national programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.	The national programme for poverty reduction and economic development originally covered the period 2003-2005. United Nations organizations provided support to the Government during the preparation of a programme to succeed the national programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development, which the Government approved in 2008. The programme is aligned with the Millennium Development Goals and covers the period 2008-2015. United Nations organizations will support the implementation and monitoring of the national programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development as well as the reporting on its results.	In order to align its country programme with the UNDAF, UNFPA has decided to extend the country programme by an additional year, through the end of 2010. The UNFPA country programme will continue to focus on: (a) reproductive health (emphasizing youth and life skills), and safe motherhood, including the promotion of birth spacing, and will continue to serve vulnerable communities; (b) population and development, with a focus on analysing data from the population census, which will be undertaken in 2009, and building capacity in national statistical services; and (c) gender equality, by supporting a joint programme with United Nations partners for the care of victims of gender-based violence. The joint programme will provide integrated care and counselling. The current country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-support projects in Azerbaijan.

Table 2. Two-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Kyrgyzstan	2005-2009	2010-2011	The United Nations system in Kyrgyzstan recognizes that its programme cycle must be harmonized with the new national development strategy, 2009-2011. In addition, the programme cycle of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) must be adjusted accordingly. The United Nations country team in Kyrgyzstan has therefore planned a two-year extension of ongoing United Nations system country programmes, through 2011.	The Government of Kyrgyzstan adopted a national development strategy for the period 2009-2011. The strategy reflects the midterm vision of the development of the country. The Government has requested UNFPA to extend its country programme for two years, through the end of 2011, to ensure alignment with the national development planning cycle.	The UNFPA country programme will continue to focus on: (a) reproductive health and rights, emphasizing safe motherhood and family planning, as well as the access of young people to information and services on sexual and reproductive health and HIV; (b) the promotion of gender equality policies and policies and services to prevent gender-based violence; and (c) support for the Government in developing, implementing and monitoring the population policy, and building capacity in data collection, monitoring and analysis. The current country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects in Kyrgyzstan.